SURAH OF AL-HUMAZA

THE RESEARCH:
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AL-HUMAZA

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THE REFERENCES

1) https://quran.com/al-humazah/info

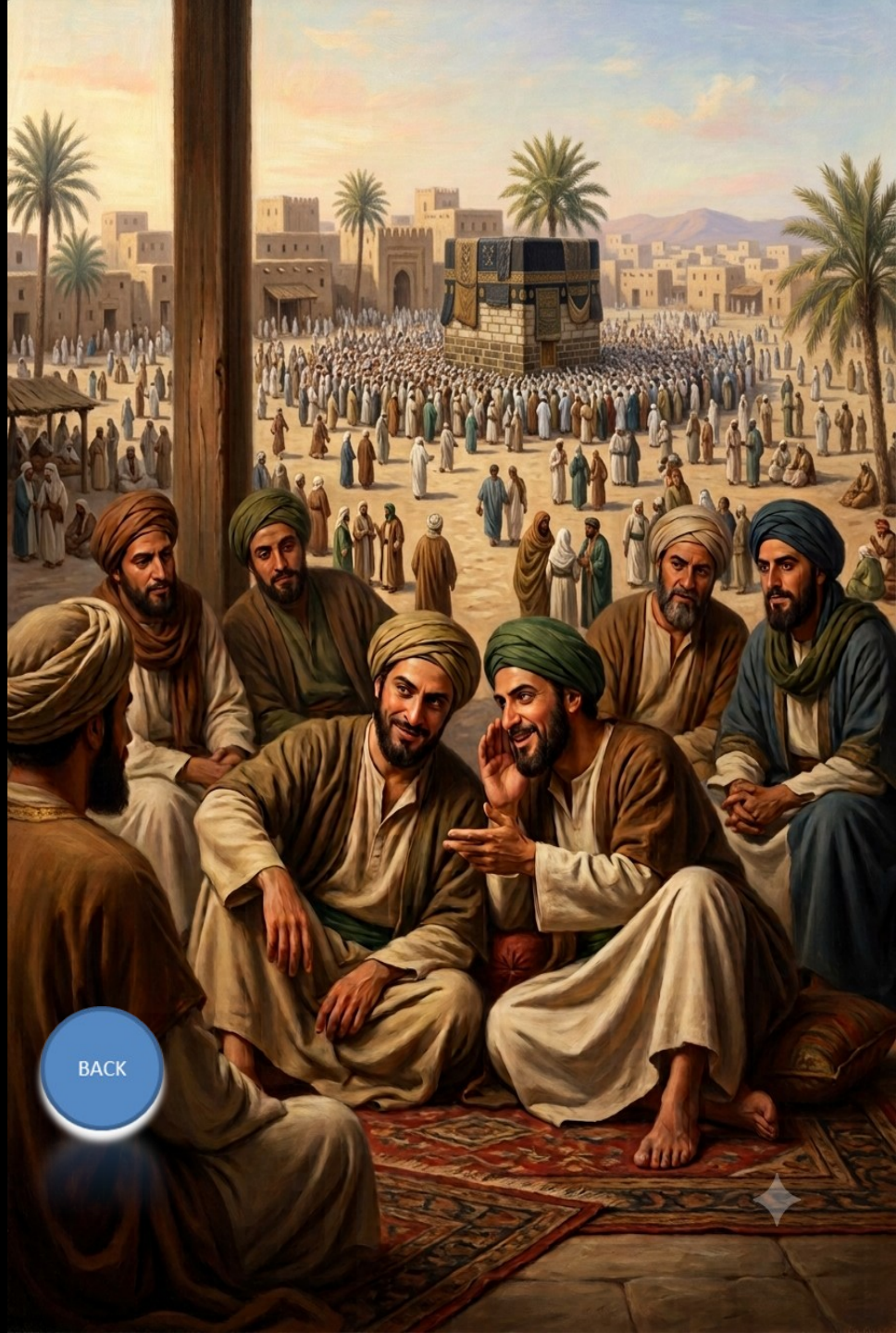
2) https://quran.com/al-humazah

THE BACKGROUND 1

Adapted from Tafsir Ibn Ashur

Themes and purpose:

This Meccan surah serves to condemn the wealthy elite who practice slander, backbiting, and hoarding of wealth out of denial of the Hereafter. Its core purpose is to warn them of the inevitable punishment of a Fire that violently penetrates the heart, which contains their corrupt belief.



Context of Revelation:

- Era: Makkan by consensus.
- Context: The surah was revealed to address the specific behavior of a group of wealthy Quraysh chiefs (e.g., Al-Walīd ibn al-Mughīrah, Umayyah ibn Khalaf) who made it their mission to verbally abuse, ridicule, and slander the early Muslims, believing their wealth would protect them.
- Chronology: It is counted as the 32nd surah in the order of revelation, revealed after Sūrat al-Qiyāmah and before al-Mursalāt.

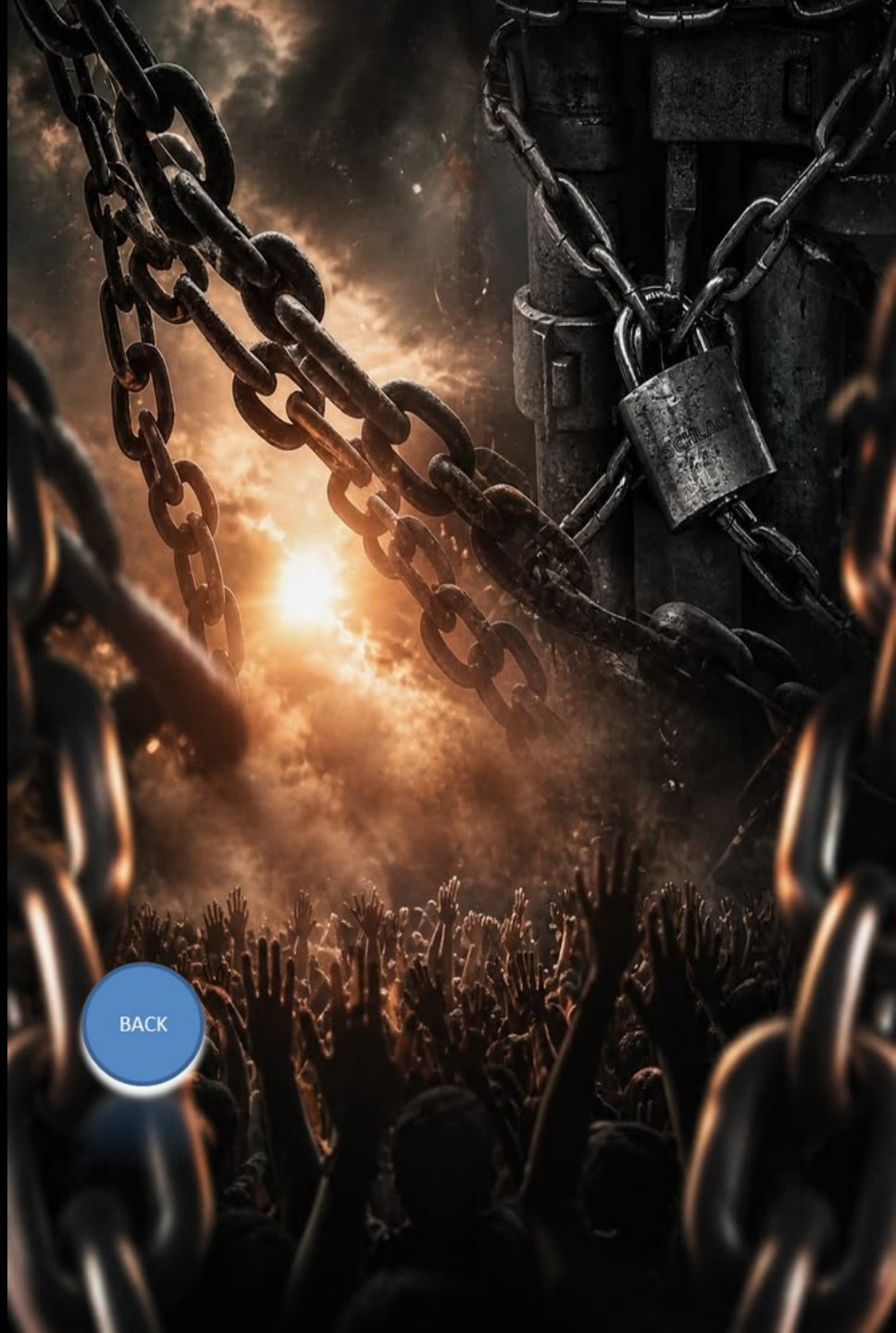
Name

- The surah is known as: "Sūrat al-Humazah" (The Slanderer/Backbiter) as well as "Sūrat Waylun li-kulli humazah" (Woe to Every Slanderer), based on its opening; also "Sūrat al-Ḥuṭamah" (The Crusher) [4].

Surah Overview:

- The Curse: Pronouncing a curse upon the slanderers and backbiters. [1]
- The Vice of Avarice: Condemning the behavior of those who hoard wealth and count it repeatedly, believing it will grant them immortality or protection. [2-3]

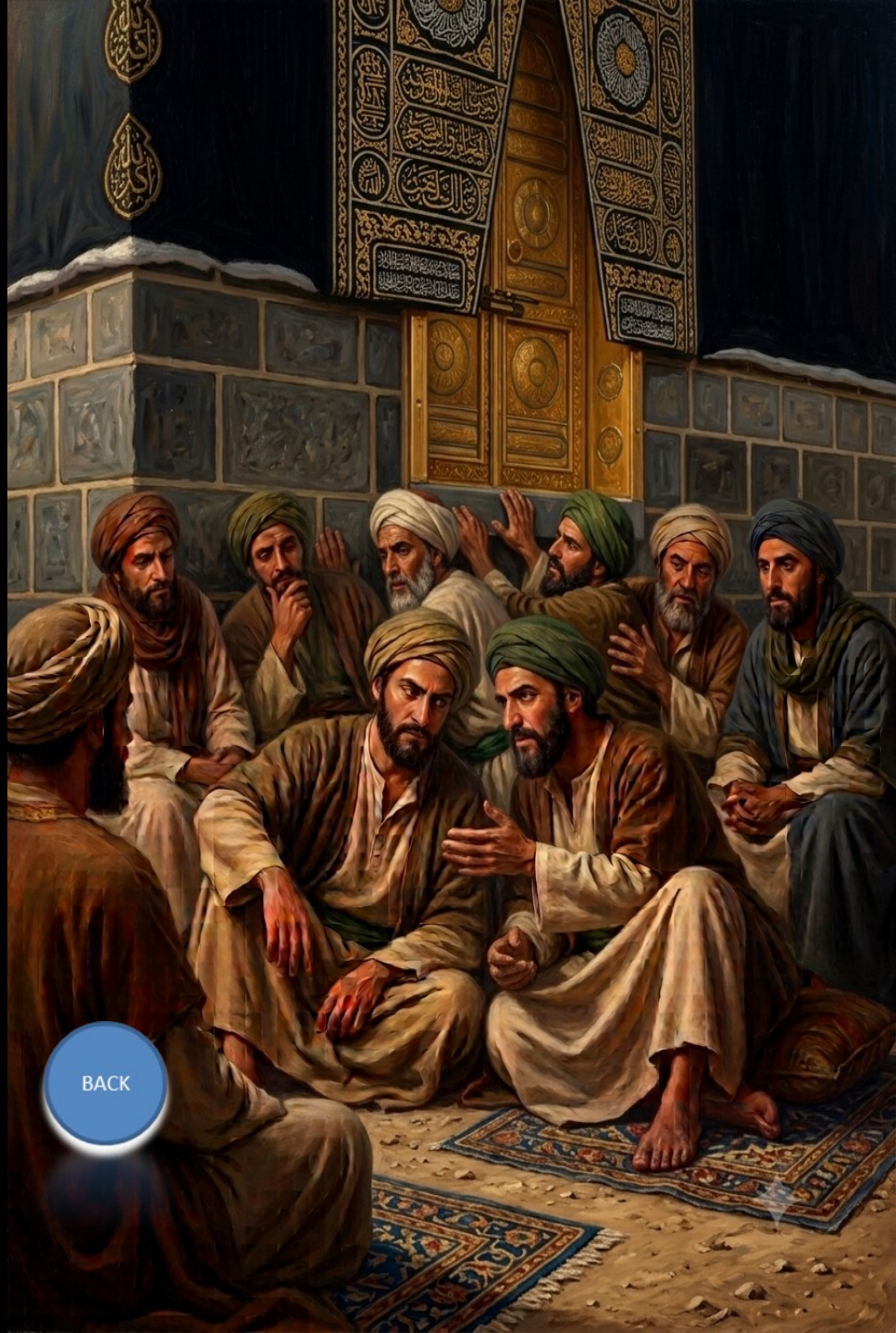
- The Final Punishment: Warning the arrogant that they will be cast into the Crushing Fire, which reaches the hearts. [4-7]
- Eternal Imprisonment: Concluding with a description of the Fire as a massive, towering structure in which the condemned will be eternally enclosed. [8-9]



THE AYAT IN DETAILS 2

وَيْلٌ لِّكُلِّ هُمَزَةٍ لُّمَزَةٍ ١

Woe to every backbiter, slanderer,



الَّذِي جَمَعَ مَالًا وَعَدَّدَهُ ۝٢

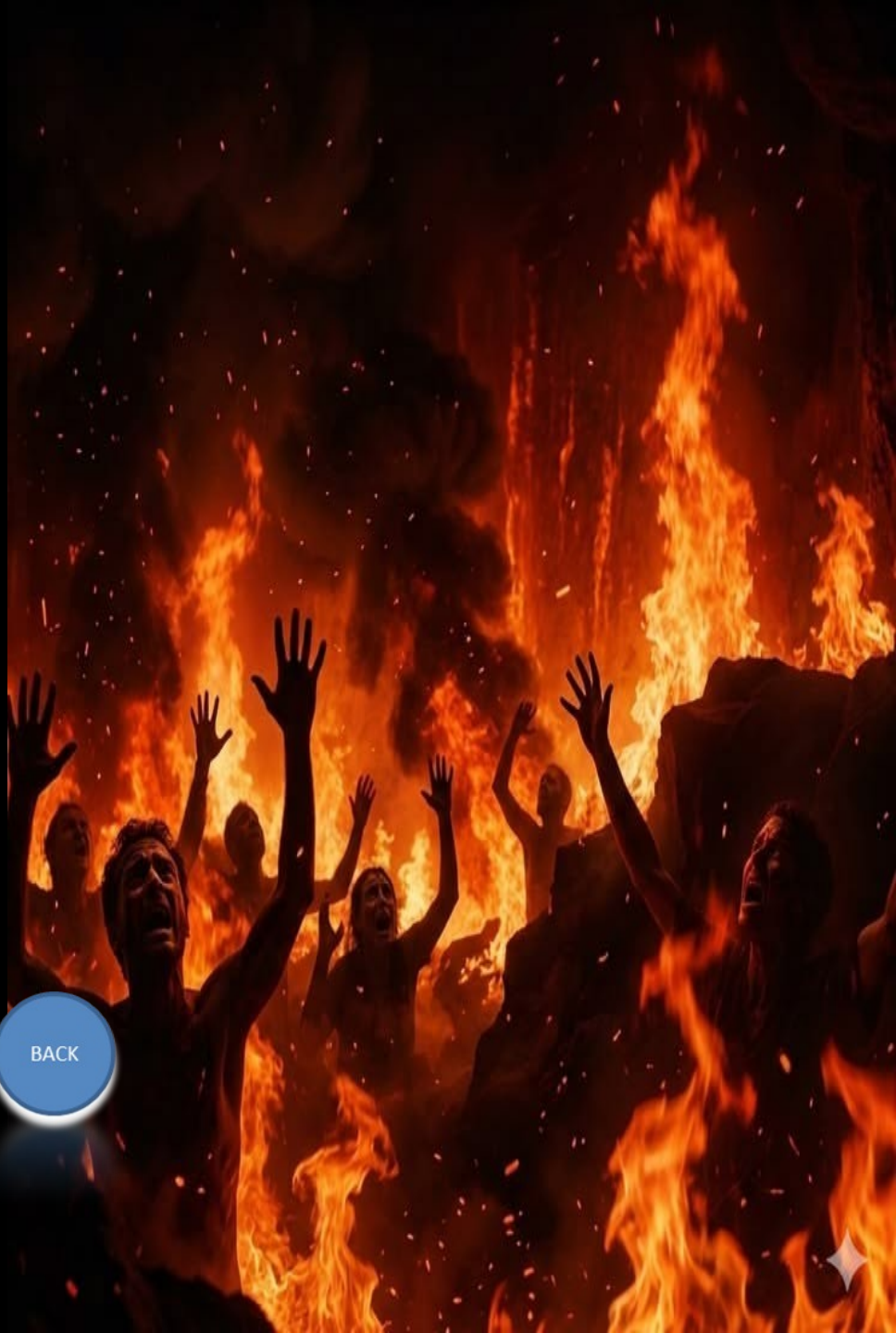
who amasses wealth [greedily] and counts it [repeatedly],

يَحْسَبُ أَنَّ مَالَهُۥٓ أَخْلَدَهُۥ ٣

thinking that their wealth will make them immortal!

كَلَّا لَيُنۢبَذَنَّ فِي ٱلْحُطَمَةِ ٤

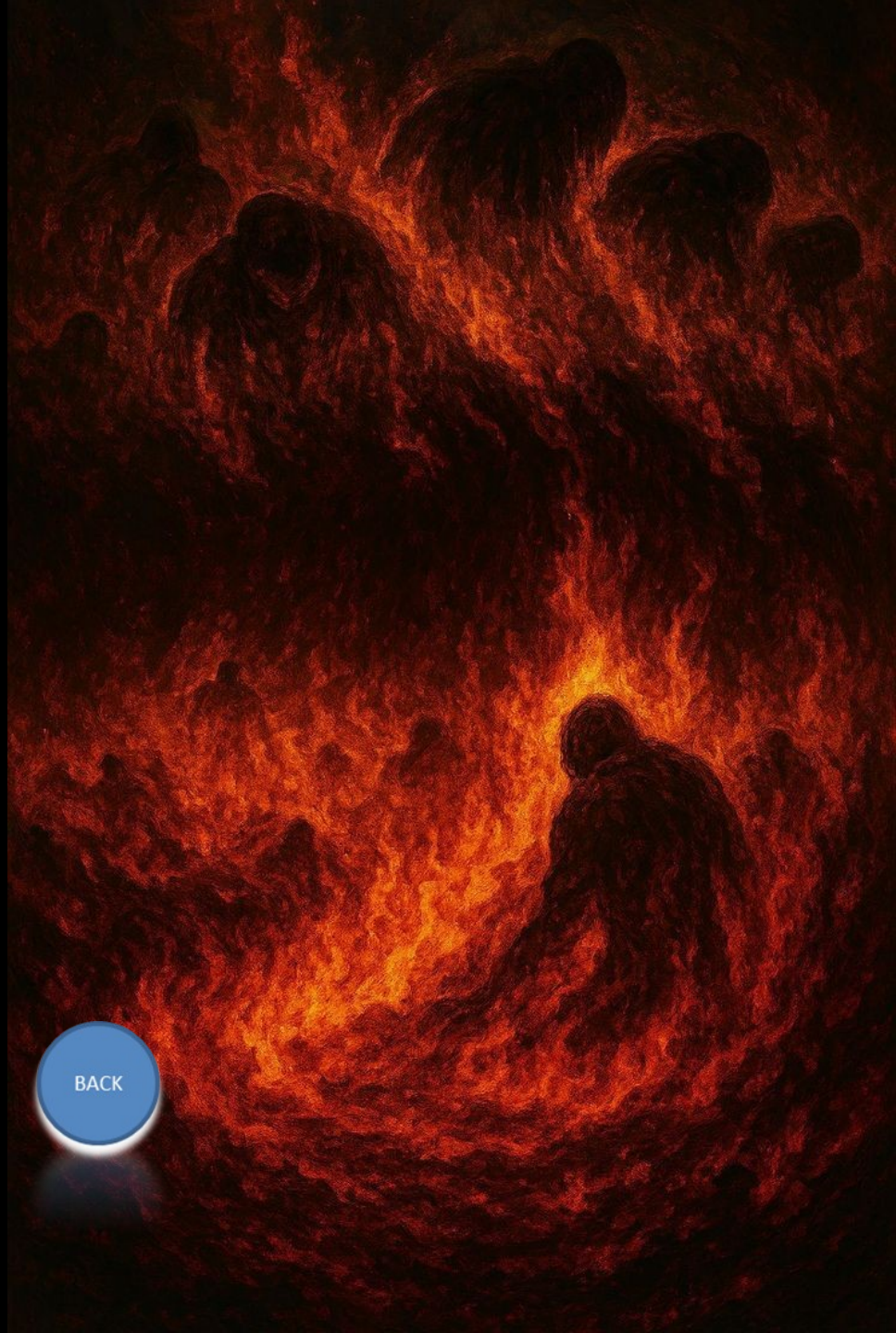
Not at all! Such a person will certainly be tossed into the Crusher.



BACK

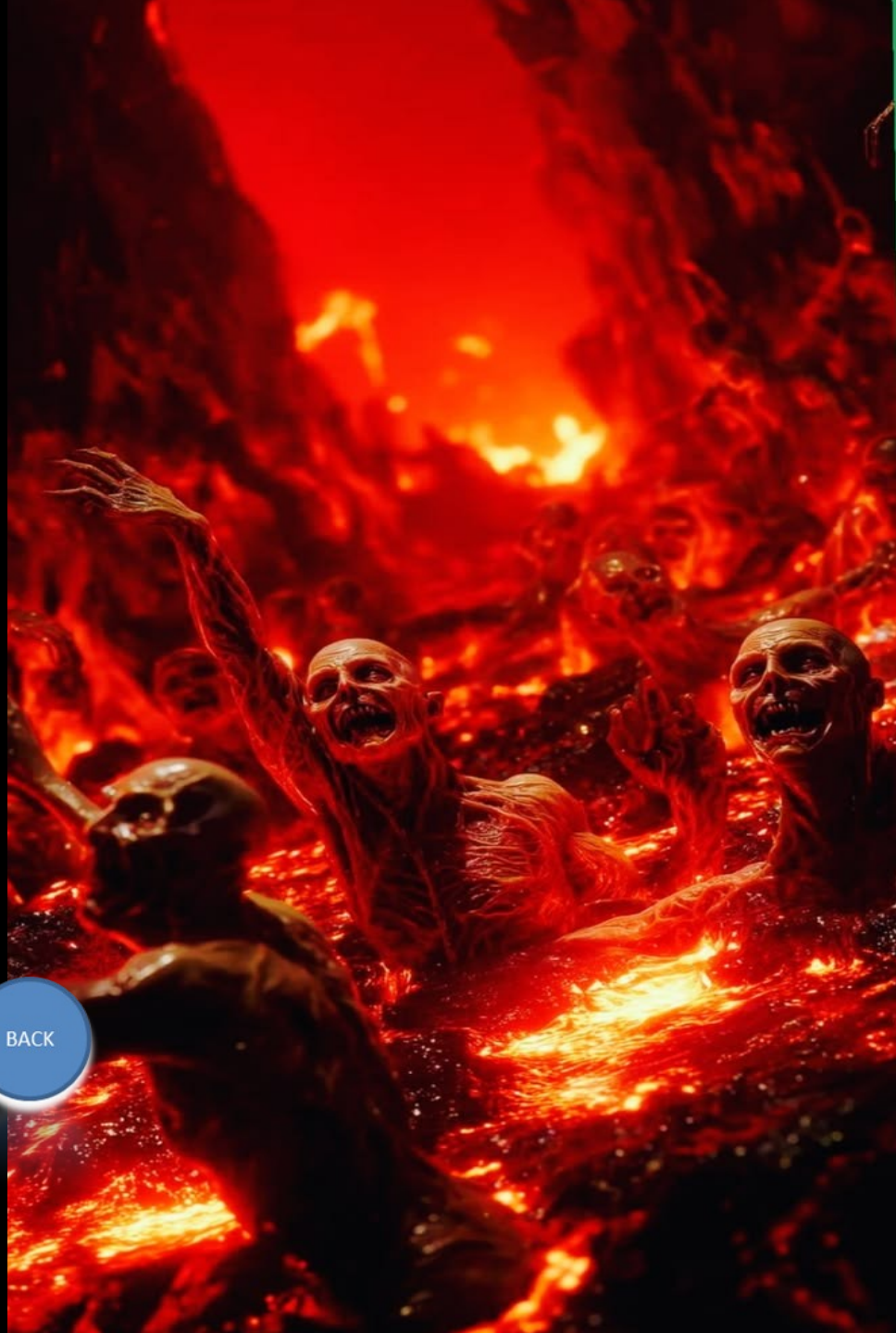
وَمَآ أَدۡرَىٰكَ مَا ٱلۡحُطَمَةُ ٥

And what will make you realize what the Crusher is?



نَارُ ٱللَّهِ ٱلْمُوقَدَةُ ٦

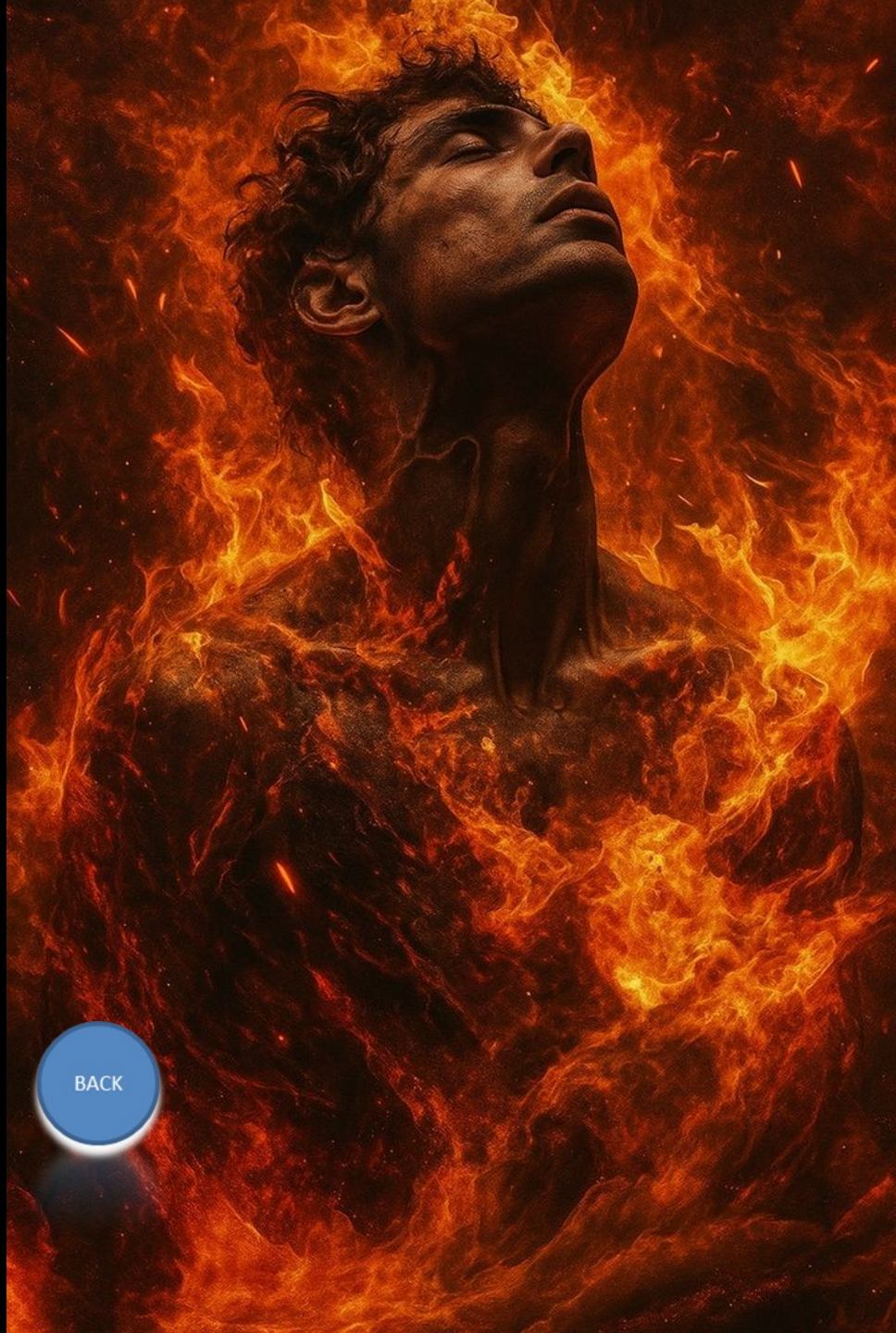
It is Allah’s kindled Fire,



BACK

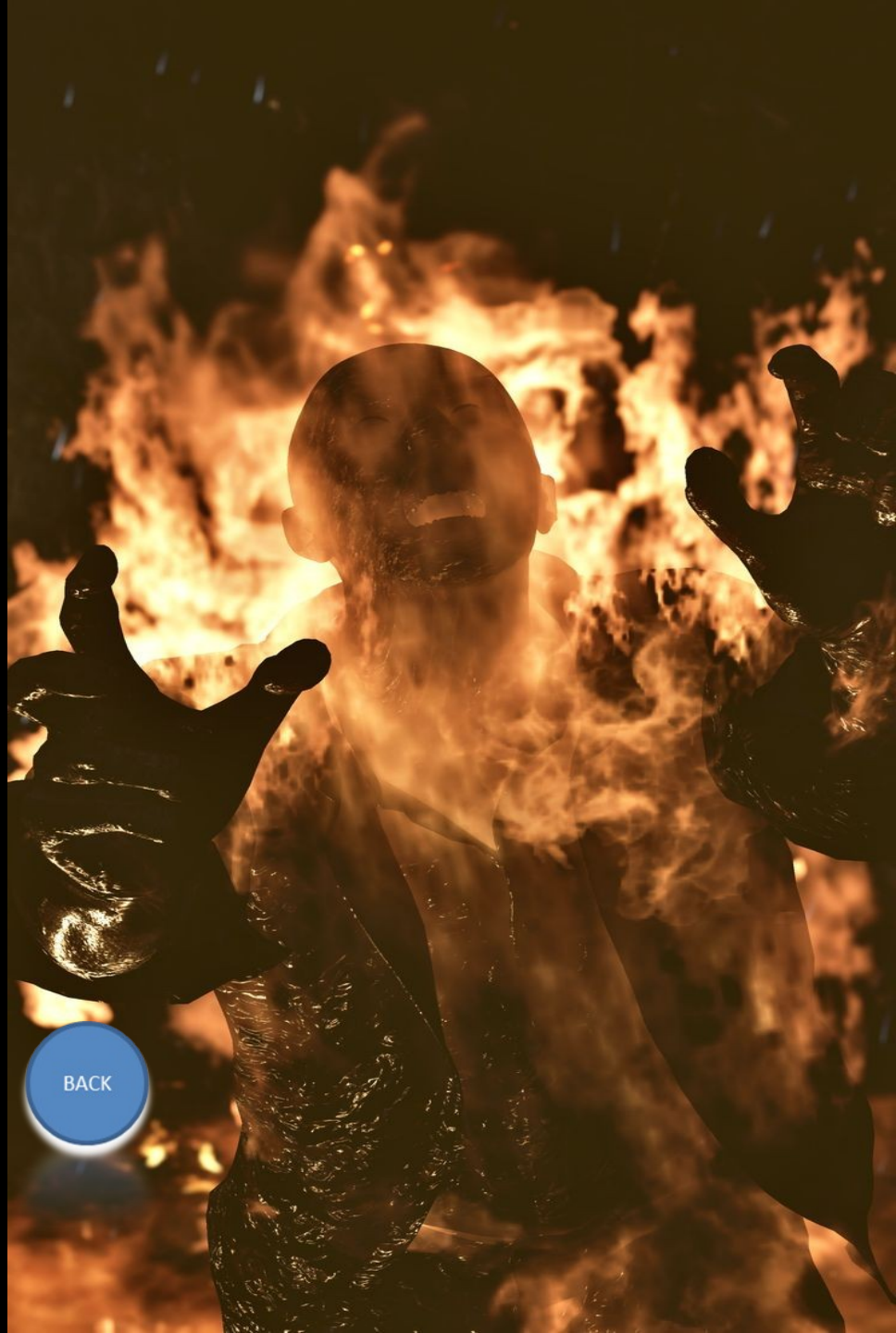
وَمَآ أَدۡرَىٰكَ مَا ٱلۡحُطَمَةُ ۝٥ نَارُ ٱللَّهِ ٱلۡمُوقَدَةُ ۝٦ ٱلَّتِي تَطَّلِعُ
عَلَى ٱلۡأَفۡـِٔدَةِ ۝٧ إِنَّهَا عَلَيۡهِم مُّؤۡصَدَةٌ ۝٨ فِي عَمَدٖ مُّمَدَّدَةِۭ ۝٩

which rages over the hearts.



إِنَّهَا عَلَيْهِم مُّؤْصَدَةٌ ٨

It will be sealed over them,

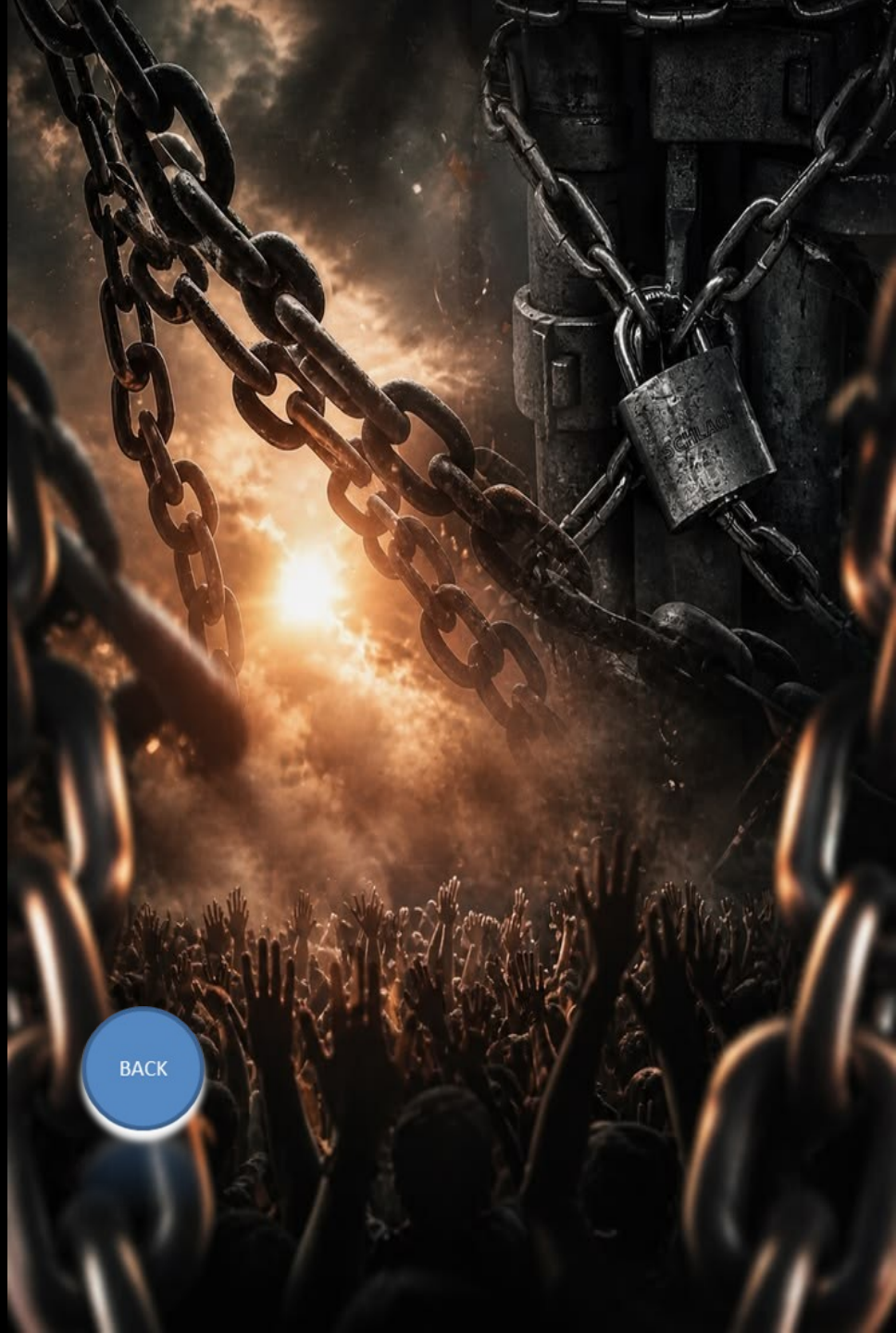


فِي عَمَدٍ مُّمَدَّدَةٍ ٩

tightly secured with long braces.1

Footnote - 1

Other possible translations: 1. “The Fire will be in towering columns.” 2. “They will be tied to long pillars.”



EXCERCISES
BACK

1. Remembering (Recall)

1) What type of people does Allah warn against in this surah?
2) What two bad behaviors are mentioned in the first verse?
3) What does the person in the surah think about his wealth?
4) What is the name of the Fire mentioned in this surah?
5) Where will the Fire reach according to the surah?
6) How does the surah describe the gates of Hell?

2. Understanding (Comprehension)

1) Explain the difference between backbiting and mocking others.
2) Why does the person keep counting his wealth?
3) Why does wealth fail to save a person from Allah's punishment?
4) What does it mean that the Fire "rises over the hearts"?
5) What message does this surah give about pride and arrogance?

3. Applying

1) How can you avoid becoming a person described in this surah?
2) What should you do if you hear someone making fun of another person?
3) How can you use your wealth in a way that pleases Allah?
4) Give an example of speaking kindly instead of criticizing someone.
5) How can social media be used in a way that follows the teachings of this surah?

4. Analyzing

1) Compare the attitude of the person in this surah with the attitude of a grateful believer.
2) How are mocking people and loving wealth connected in this surah?
3) What sequence of events does the surah describe from sin to punishment?
4) Why do you think Allah mentions both the tongue and the heart in this surah?
5) Analyze how false security in wealth leads to bad behavior.

5. Evaluating

1) Why is mocking others considered such a serious sin?
2) Which is more dangerous: hurting people with words or becoming proud because of wealth? Explain your answer.
3) Do you think a wealthy person can avoid the warning in this surah? Why?
4) Why is it important to remember that wealth cannot give eternal safety?
5) How would following the teachings of this surah improve a community?

6. Creating (Higher-Order Thinking)

1) Write three classroom rules inspired by the lessons of Surah Al-Humazah.
2) Create a short dialogue showing the difference between respectful speech and mocking speech.
3) Design a poster with the main message of the surah (without drawing living beings if preferred).
4) Write a short paragraph explaining how Muslims should treat others according to this surah.
5) Create a real-life scenario where someone chooses kindness instead of gossip or ridicule.
6) Write a personal action plan describing how you will avoid

Higher-Order Critical Thinking Questions

1) Why do you think Allah begins the surah by warning against harmful speech before mentioning the love of wealth?
2) What can happen to a society if people constantly insult, mock, and backbite one another?
3) Why do some people believe that money gives them importance or protection?
4) How does Surah Al-Humazah encourage both good character and correct beliefs?
5) If everyone practiced the teachings of this surah, how would relationships at school, at home, and in society change?

و الحمد لله رب العالمين